

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /111 W
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R 221115Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4272
INFO CJCS
SECDEF
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
COMUSSAG

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 14287

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, CB
SUBJECT: STATUS OF CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

1. THE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN, CONTINUING AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL IT HAS ASSUMED FOR THE PAST WEEK, PRODUCED AN AVERAGE OF 98 NEW RECRUTS PER DAY IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA DURING THE LAST FOUR DAYS. BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 21 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 11,954 RECRUTS (10,620 VOLUNTEERS AND 1334 CONSCRIPTS).

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING PURSAT AND KOMPONG CHHNANG LEARNED THAT KG. CHHNANG HAS NO CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM BUT THAT A RECENTLY INSTITUTED RECRUITEMENT CAMPAIGN SENT 17 MEN TO SISOPHON TRAINING CENTER A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY. PURSAT SENT 400 CHAM (A MOSLEM ETHNIC MINORITY) VOLUNTEERS TO SISOPHON TRAINING CENTER ON DECEMBER 10. THE PROVINCE FIRST DEPUTY GOVERNOR SAID ONLY 3,000 MEN APPEAR ON REGIS-
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TRATION LISTS OF 18-35 RPT 35 YEAR OLD MEN IN THE 200,000

STRONG PROVINCE. AFTER BRINGING TO LIGHT VOTER REGISTRATION FIGURES FOR THE 1972 ELECTION WHICH TOTALLED OVER 80,000 MEN AND WOMEN OVER 18, HE ALLOWED THAT THE DRAFT LISTS WERE PROBABLY HAPHAZARDLY DONE AND WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL UPDATING FOR ANY PROVINCIAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

3. THE FANK ASSISTANT FOR PERSONNEL REPORTS THAT A TOTAL OF 770 NEW SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED IN BATTAMBANGM WE BELIVE THIS INCLUDES MEN PREVIOUSLY RECRUITED BY MR-3 BUT NOT PROCESSED AT THE TIME ACCORDING TO NEW PROCEDURES.

4. MEASURES TO IMPROVE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT RESULTS ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. NO ACTION IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, UNTIL A NEW CABINET HAS BEEN CHOSEN, POSSIBLY IN A WEEK OR SO. KHMER LEADERS ARE ALSO RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY SERIOUS EFFORT TO APPREHEND DRAFT EVADERS UNTIL THE CURRENT TEACHER'S STRIKE HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSCRIPTION, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM14287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973128/aaaaafws.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT PROGRAM
TAGS: MILI, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005